

and (b) There is a Centralised Accidents and Trauma Services (CATS) under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Accident calls are received through telephone numbers "1099" or "102". Calls are also received through Delhi Police and Delhi Fire Services through wireless sets. CATS has 23 ambulances which are deployed on 23 different location points. The ambulances are equipped with wireless and other sophisticated first-aid equipments. Refresher courses have been arranged for paramedics so that they can deal with any emergency eventualities.

Problems of Healthcare

1446. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-report- "Sick Nation: Indian has ignored health care", appearing in the Statesman dated 3rd July, 2000;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the problems of the healthcare highlighted in the aforesaid news-report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central and State Governments are making every effort to create infrastructure facilities for providing better health care services particularly for the poor and the disadvantaged. Due to resource constraints there is some shortage of health infrastructure facilities as per norms in rural area. To enable the State to fill critical gaps in providing health services to the people, external assistance has been availed of by the Central Government for National Health Programmes for Malaria, T.B., Leprosy, Blindness, AIDS, Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Besides, for upgrading the rural hospitals in selected States, World Bank assistance has been availed of which would further improve delivery of health services.